

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS PINT, PFOR, PO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN LABOR PROTESTS POLISH WORKER TRIALS; LAZIO

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON THE SAME

SUBJECT

REF: ROME'S 11717 (NOTAL)

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1. THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING

DECLARATION OF PROTEST AGAINST RECENT EVENTS IN POLAND;
QUOTE THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND
CONCERN WITH THE TRIALS BEING CONDUCTED IN POLAND AGAINST
WORKERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS OF JUNE
25 AGAINST THE PRICE INCREASES WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY WERE SUSPENDED
BY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL IS
NOT IN A POSITION TO PRECLUDE THAT, IN THE COURSE OF THE
WORKERS' DEMONSTRATIONS, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN ISOLATED DEGENER-
ATIVE EPISODES SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY JUDICIAL PROCEDURES ACC-
ORDING TO POLISH LAW, BUT AT THE SAME TIME CANNOT FAIL TO UNDER-
SCORE THE SEVERITY OF THE PRISON SENTENCES CONFERRED BY THE
COURTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, INTERNATIONAL PRESS SOURCES REPORT
THAT NUMEROUS ARRESTS OF WORKERS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN VARIOUS
POLISH CITIES PUSSUANT TO THE DEMONSTRATIONS.
THE FERATIONS CGIL-CISL-UIL, WHILE FIRMLY PROTESTING THE
REPRESSIVE MEASURES, NOTES THAT WHAT HAS OCCURRED IN POLAND
HIGHLIGHTS ONCE AGAIN THE INSUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE
WORKERS TO PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC POLICY DECISIONS TO SAY
NOTHING OF THE GRAVE LIMITS TO THE FUCTIONS EXERCISED BY THE
TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS OF THAT COUNTRY IN REPRESENTING THE
INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS. THE FEDERATIONS CGIL-CISL-UIL, TRUE
TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH INSPIRE IT, RECONFIRMS THE NEED FOR AN
AUTONOMOUS ROLE FOR THE TRADE UNIONS, INDEPENDENT OF THE SOCIAL
AND POLITICAL REGIME IN WHICH THEY OPERATE. END QUOTE

2. COMMENT: WHILE THIS EXPRESSION OF PROTEST IS CERTAINLY
WELCOME, NOT TO SAY FULLY JUSTIFIED, ITS IMPACT IS MITIGATED IN
TWO WAYS: IT CONTAINS SOLICITIOUS LANGUAGE (I.E. TRIALS
MAY BE JUSTIFIED, ETC.) OF THE KIND WHICH WOULD NEVER BE
CONCEDED IN ANY PROTESTS DIRECTED AGAINST, SAY, SPAIN, CHILE OR
SOUTH AFRICA -- IN SUCH CASES, THE CCU PROTEST WOULD SURELY
CONTAIN NUMEROUS "DEMANDS"; AND IT IS BEING ISSUED ONLY AFTER
THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ITSELF HAS BEEN INDUCED
TO EXPRESS SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE POLISH DEVELOPMENTS
(REFTEL).

3. TO DATE, ONLY ONE PAPER CARRIES THE CCU PROTEST. CISL
SOURCES STATE THAT THE STATEMENT IS BEING ISSUED TODAY, I.E.,
PRESUMABLY IT WILL BE MORE WIDELY REPORTED TOMORROW, AND
THAT IL GIORNO SOMEHOW GOT HOLD OF AN ADVANCE COPY. END
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COMMENT.

4. IN A SESSION OF THE LAZIO REGIONAL ASSEMBLY JULY 21,
THE SOCIALIST GROUP (ALLIED WITH COMMUNISTS IN CONTROLLING
THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT) INTRODUCED AN ORDER OF THE DAY
DEPLORING THE SENTENCES PASSED BY THE POLISH COURTS ON
INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD BEEN PROTESTING THE RECENT PRICE
INCREASES. VOTING IN FAVOR WERE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS,

REPUBLICANS AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (FROM THE RANKS OF
THE OPPOSITION). THE COMMUNISTS AND THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE EXTREME LEFT ABSTAINED. VOLPE

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